

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BF

SUBJECT: MEETING OF ABACO INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT (AIM)

1. ABACO INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT (AIM) HELD WHAT IT CALLED ITS 1974 NATIONAL CONVENTION AT MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO, ON FEBRUARY 23. AIM IS THE REMNANT OF THE COUNCIL FOR A FREE ABACO WHICH A YEAR AGO WAS PRESSING THE UK TO ALLOW ABACO TO REMAIN A BRITISH COLONY AND TALKING OF SECESSION FROM AN INDEPENDENT BAHAMAS.

2. AIM NO LONGER SPEAKS OF SECESSION, AND ESCHEWS ANY MENTION OF VIOLENCE. CHUCK HALL, A BAHAMIAN EX-APPLIANCE SALESMAN, NOW PROPOSES A LOOSE FEDERALISM FOR THE BAHAMAS UNDER WHICH ABACO WOULD BE FINANCIALLY AUTONOMOUS AND SUBJECT ONLY TO LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT.

3. PEAK ATTENDANCE AT THE FEBRUARY 23 MEETING WAS LESS THAN 125, AND MOST OF THE TALKING WAS DONE BY AN AMERICAN, DR. JOHN HOSPERS. HOSPERS WAS BILLED AS THE HEAD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY, A 1972 THIRD PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, AND THE AUTHOR OF A BOOK ENTITLED "LIBERTARIANISM: A POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY FOR TOMORROW". LIBERTARIANISM AS ESPOUSED BY HOSPERS APPEARS TO BE A CALL FOR MINIMAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF

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PRIVATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, AND ABOLITION OF TAXES AND ANTI-

TRUST LAWS. HOSPERS APPARENTLY WAS WARNED BY BAHAMIAN IMMIGRATION UPON ARRIVAL ON ABACO NOT TO MAKE ANY POLITICAL SPEECHES, AND INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN REMARKS ON BAHAMIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SO HE CONFINED HIS RHETORIC TO INTERNAL US EFFORTS TO STIFLE FREE ENTERPRISE. COMMENT: EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT HOSPERS IS A FRINGE THINKER OF THE AYN RAND SCHOOL, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON HOSPERS VIEWS AND AFFILIATIONS.

4. OBSERVERS AT MEETING INCLUDED ONE MEMBER OF WHAT HE SAID WAS THE ALASKA INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT AND SEVERAL POTENTIAL INVESTORS IN ABACONIAN REAL ESTATE. WHILE ONLY A TINY NUMBER OF ABACO RESIDENTS ATTENDED MEETING, OBSERVERS NOTED THAT IT WAS PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED, WITH BUNTING, BANNERS AND BROCHURES, AS WELL AS AIM BUMPER STICKERS AND T SHIRTS FOR SALE, INDICATING THAT WHILE AIM MAY NOT HAVE REACHED THE STATUS OF EVEN A SPLINTER ORGANIZATION IT DOES HAVE FINANCIAL BACKING. CHUCK HALL HAS QUIT HIS JOB AND IS NOW THE FULL TIME, SALARIED CHAIRMAN OF AIM.
SPIERS

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